

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the last paragraph on page 4 as follows:

In the embodiment of the invention the electronic circuit 7 is part of the connector assembly 3, e.g. by accommodating the electronic circuit 7 on a board or card 15 mounted to or within the connector assembly 3 or cable connector 10. The electronic circuit 7 is powered from the voltage source 9 by assigning or dedicating at least one of the ground contacts 6 for connection to the power supply line 8. This contact 6' of connector 4 of the device board 2 has a corresponding contact 12' for extending the power supply line 8 into the connector assembly 3 as to apply the voltage to the electronic circuit 7. The voltage supply path 8 is indicated by the thick dashed line in Fig. 2. The other ground contacts ~~7~~ 6 and corresponding ground contacts ~~13~~ 12 remain to be used for grounding purposes. Moreover, Fig. 2 illustrates that the power supply line is isolated from the wires 13 of the cable 14 to avoid the wires 13 to carry a substantive voltage over the cable 14 to a third part 16.